

Atty. Dkt. No. 089491-0201
RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING GROUP 1634

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 6-36, and replace claims 37-48 with the following amended claims.

In accordance with the newly instituted revised amendment format, a complete set of claims follows, with new material to be added to the claims shown as underlined, and material to be deleted shown as ~~struck through~~.

Claims 1-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Amended) An isolated naturally occurring protein encoded by a variant of a full-length human protection of telomere-1 (hPot 1) transcript polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the polynucleotide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 12 or the complement thereof, wherein said polypeptide binds single-stranded telomeric DNA, and wherein said polypeptide is not the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13.

38. (Amended) ~~The protein according to claim 37, wherein said variant has An isolated hPot 1 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 15.~~

39. (Amended) ~~The protein polypeptide according to claim 38, wherein said variant polypeptide is encoded by the polynucleotide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14.~~

40. (Amended) ~~The protein according to claim 38, wherein said variant has An isolated human Pot 1 polypeptide having at least 85% amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 15, wherein said polypeptide binds single-stranded telomeric DNA, and wherein said polypeptide is not the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13.~~

41. (Amended) ~~The protein polypeptide according to claim 38 40, wherein said variant polypeptide differs from SEQ ID NO: 15 by no more than about 20 single amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions, and wherein said variant binds single stranded telomeric DNA.~~

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42. (Amended) ~~The protein according to claim 37, wherein said variant has An isolated hPot 1 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17.~~

43. (Amended) ~~The protein polypeptide according to claim 42, wherein said variant polypeptide is encoded by the polynucleotide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16.~~

44. (Amended) ~~The protein according to claim 42, wherein said variant has An isolated human Pot 1 polypeptide having at least 85% amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:17, wherein said polypeptide binds single-stranded telomeric DNA, and wherein said polypeptide is not the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13.~~

45. (Amended) ~~The protein polypeptide according to claim 42 44, wherein said variant polypeptide differs from SEQ ID NO:17 by no more than about 20 single amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions, and wherein said variant binds single-stranded telomeric DNA.~~

46. (Amended) ~~The protein polypeptide according to claim 37, wherein said variant polypeptide is a splicing variant.~~

47. (Amended) ~~A fragment of said variant polypeptide according to claim 37, wherein said fragment binds single-stranded telomeric DNA.~~

48. (Amended) ~~The fragment according to claim 47, wherein said fragment encodes comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5.~~